

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 AID-20

DRC-01 /150 W

----- 126709

P R 141630Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4774

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, UR

SUBJ: CAMPAIGN FOR UNESCO DG POST

NESCO

REF: (A) FORSTER-PROHME TELECON NOV 12;

(B) STATE 223802;

(C) PARIS 29339 (NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED TELECON, NEITHER AF NOR WE/O GROUPS MET DURING EITHER 93RD EXBD NOR 3RD EMERGENCY GEN CONF TO CONSIDER POSITION ON DG SUCCESSION ISSUE. NOR HAVE ANY OTHER GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS TAKEN FORMAL POSITIONS AS YET ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. AT LUNCHEON WITH PERMREP AND DELOFF MAXIM ON NOV 9, MISGINN, ETHIOPIAN PERMREP, INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT AND ALL OF AF'S CURRENTLY SUPPORTING M'BOW BUT WAS AMBIGUOUS RE SUPPORT OF OTHER MEMBERS GROUP OF 77. FORMAL OAU POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION ADG M'BOW EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN AT FEB 1974 MEETING. UNTIL THEN AF LINE SEEMS TO BE THAT AF'S AT UNESCO WILL SUPPORT

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M'BOW AS LONG AS PRES SEGHOR OF SENEGAL DOES AND AS LONG AS NO

ANGLOPHONE AF CANDIDATE EMERGES. TO DATE NONE HAS EVEN BEEN SUGGESTED.

3. WE/O GROUP NOT LIKELY WANT TO TAKE POSITION ON DG SUCCESSION AT EARLY DATE. PERMDEL FEELS STRONGLY US SHOULD NOT TAKE LEAD IN CALLING WE MEETING AT THIS TIME BUT IT PREFERABLE TO SEE WHICH WAY WINDS BLOWING. GENEVA GROUP NOT LIKELY WANT DISCUSS SUCCESSION AS THEIR MANDATE LIMITED TO BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

4. IF IT COMES TO HEAD TO HEAD VOTE BETWEEN MAHEU AND M'BOW PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT M'BOW WOULD WIN. SOLID AFRICAN/ARAB SUPPORT WOULD LIKELY CARRY MOST OF GROUP OF 77 AND WE WOULD GO ALONG TO KEEP THEIR FENCES MENDED. HOWEVR, IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT A COMPROMISE WILL BE ATTEMPTED WHICH WOULD PREVENT AN M'BOW-MAHEI HEAD TO HEAD CONFRONTATION, WHICH MIGHT PUT GOVT OF FRANCE IN DIFFICULT POSITION AS IT WOULD INVOLVE AN IMPORTANT CLIENT STATE AND A DISTINGUISHED FRENCHMAN. THEREFORE, CAN FORESEE POSSIBILITY BEHIND SCENES INTERVENTION FRENH TO ARRANGE WAY OUT. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR PRES SENGHOR TO BE ASKED TO WITHDRAW M'BOW ON GUARANTEE HE WOULD BE AUTOMATIC SUCCESSOR TO MAHEU IN TWO YEARS. EXACTLY HOW THIS COULD BE HANDLED IS NOT YET CLER BUT SUCH MOVE MAY WELL THREATEN POSITION OF FOBES AS DEP DG, AS IT COULD INVOLVE M'BOW MOVING TO THAT JOB. FOBES HAS BEEN NON-COMMITTAL ON HIS PLANS BUT SUGGEST DEPT MAY WISH TO TALK WITH HIM DURING IS US VISIT JUST COMMENCING. OTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT SOME HONORARY POSITION MIGHT BE WORKED FOR MAHEU WITH M'BOW ASSUMING DG IN FALL. AN HONORARY TITLE -- ROVING AMBASSADOR OR THE LIKE -- MIGHT BE ARRANGED AND 6TH BUILDING COULD BE DEDICATED TO MAHEU. IN OTHER WORDS, BLOW COULD BE SOFTENED AND MAHEU COULD CONTINUE AS THE ELDER STATESMAN OF UNESCO. FRENCH MAY HAVE THIS IN MIND AND TRY TO ARRANGE SUCH A WAY OUT. WHETHER STRONG-WILLED MAHEU WOULD GO ALONG IS UNCLEAR, ALTHOUGH HE MAY WISH AVOID KNOCK-DOWN DRAG-OUT FIGHT HE WOULD PROBABLY LOSE. FURTHER POSSIBILITY IS FOR POSSIBLE "DARK HORSE" CANDIDATE TO EMERGE. AT PRESENT NO FIRM CANDIDATES, BUT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AT EXBD HECTOR WYNTER OF JAMAICA EMERGED AS CHAMPION OF COPROMISE AND IT WAS WYNTER WHO ASKED FOR POINT OF CLARIFICATION TO MAKE SURE THAT NOMINATIONS FOR DG WOULD CONTINUE OPEN EVEN THOUGH DATES FOR SUBMITTING NAMES HAD PASSED. IN THAT REGARD, DELEGATION WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPRECIATE RECEIVING EVALUATION OF WYNTER FROM DEPT OR EMB KINGSTON IN TERMS OF HIS STANDING IN HOME COUNTRY, ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY AND LIKLIHOOD OF SUPPORT FROM HIS OWN GOVT.

5. SUGGESTED US POSITION IS TO PLAY LOW KEY FOR NOW WITH ANTENNA OUT TO PICK UP ANY PSSIBLE COMPROMISE. IF FRENCH DO INITIATE AND MANEUVER COMPROMISE WHICH IS LIKELY TO STICK THERE WOULD SEEM LITTLE REASON FOR ANY OPEN HOSITILITY OR OPPOSITION TO

MAHEU WHO WOULD BE STAYING FOR TWO YEARS. OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD SURELY GET ON BANDWAGON AND US WOULD BE OPENLY IN OPPOSITION TO FAIT ACCOMPLI. ALSO, MAHEU WOULD, IF HE KEPT BARGAIN, SURELY TRY TO INFLUENCE M'BOW AS TO WHO IS FRIEND AND WHO IS ENEMY AND MIGHT POINT M'BOW IN WRONG DIRECTION VIS-A-VIS S. THEREFORE, SEE NOTHING TO GAIN AND MUCH TO LOSE BY ANY PREMATURE INDICATION OF US SUPPORT. BEST. BEST POSITION WOULD BE TO PUT AT TOP PRIORITY SAFEGUARDING OF FOBES POSITION AND GETTING INTO MAINSTREAM WHEN IT DEVELOPS. WE CAN QUIETLY INDICATE SUPPORT FOR M'BOW BY STATING HE IS HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSON AND THAT US RECOGNIZES NEED FOR AFRICAN AT HEAD OF IMPORTANT UN AGENCY. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE AND INDICATE OUR MAIN INTEREST IS TO SEE UNESCO A STRONG, WELL-MANAGED ORGANIZATION.

6. AS TO SOVIETS, THEIR UNDYING OPPOSITION TO MAHEU IS ANOTHER REASON WHY US SHOULD NOT PLAY THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH COOPERATION WITH SOVS IS DESIRABLE IT IS UNLIKELY THEY WOULD OFFER US ANY QUID PRO QUO AS THEY HAVE ALREADY STATED THEY INTEND TO INTRODUCE THEIR OWN CANDIDATE FOR DG. UNYIELDING OPPOSITION TO MAHEU WILL HARDLY INCREASE THEIR FAVOR WITH THAT STRONG-WILLED INDIVIDUAL SHOULD HE MANEUVER ANOTHER TWO YEARS AND OPPOSITION TO M'BOW WILL NOT ENDEAR THEM TO AFRICANS. WHY NOT LET THEM BE ALONE IN LEFT FIELD? THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT A CANDIDATE OR OUR CHOICE AND LINING UP WITH THEM IN HOT OPPOSITION TO MAHEU WOULD ONLY STRENGTHEN THEIR CANDIDATE. ALSO, ANY ALIGNMENT OPENLY OF SOVS AND US WOULD SURELY AROUSE SUSPICIONS OF CHINESE WHO TEND TO BE EMOTIONALLY ANTAGONISTIC TO "SUPERPOWER" DOMINATION.

7. SUMMARY: RECOMMENDED US POSITION IS TO PLAY LOW KEY AT THIS POINT. MAKE NO OPEN COMMITMENT; RECOGNIZE, WHEN ASKED, THAT M'BOW IS STRONG CANDIDATE, WELL QUALIFIED FOR JOB; RECOGNIZE NEED FOR AFRICANS FOR LEADERSHIP ROLE; EXERT ALL EFFORTS TO GUARANTEE FOBES STAYS ON AS DEPUTY DG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS29379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731134/aaaaayzf.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) FORSTER-PROHME TELECON NOV 12;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAMPAIGN FOR UNESCO DG POST NESCO
TAGS: AORG, UR, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005